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FIELD DIARY

Mr. Vernon Bailey

Pennsylvania & Beavers

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If you hasten
Time, like a golden butterfly
will flee before you

If you tarry
Time, slowly, like a quail or
will follow you

Juan Ramon Jiminez
translated from the Spanish

1924

April 7. Left Washington at 7:25 PM for Pittsburg to give a talk on wanderlust at Swindely and then join Mr Chilcoat for a trip to Potter Co. to photograph beavers.

April 8. Arrived at Pittsburg 7:40 AM and at Swindely at 10 AM. Raining so we could not go up Big Trout Creek so we explored caves of coal shafts for bats and set traps for live animals. Rained all day.

Swidely Region.

Deer a few
Opossum "
Sylvilagus nuttallii cons., floridanus - not for certain
Sciurus hypoxanthus S. n. rufiventris
" carolinensis leucotis
" leucotis
" hudsonicus loquax ♂
Tamias striatus fisheri
Marmota monax
Sciuropterus volans
Perognathus leucopus
Microtus pennsylvanicus
" pinetorum scalopsoides
Neotoma pennsylvanica
Zibethicus zibethicus
Zapus hudsonicus
Vulpes
Urocyon
Procyon
Mephitis ~~putida~~ nigra
Lutreola

April 9 - Set more traps up the gulch just across road from Swidely in pasture, 2 P.M. Went to traps on them as far as we could with Auto, left it & walked 7 miles up Big Raven Creek to a farm house about 18 miles S.W. of Swidely in southern part of Beaver Co., 5 miles from West Va. Set traps, explored cliffs, saw birds and got all that normal notes we carried.

Mustela noveboracensis
alleghanensis
Lutra canadensis
Ursus americanus
Scalopus aquaticus machrinus
Condylura cristata
Parascalops breweri
Sorex fumeus fumeus
cinereus cinereus — Both from Beaver & other localities
Microsorex
Blarina brevicauda
~~parva?~~
Bats - 10 or 12 species.

Synaptomys cooperi stoneri
Sci Rivers, Beaver Spring, & other localities both sides of Pittsburg

Eptesicus fuscus -	Beaver Rivers
Pipistrellus subflavus	"
Myotis lucifugus	"
Myotis keenii	"
Myotis sublatus	Carrol

April 10. Sewickley
Talked about the mammals of the vicinity & the Sewickley Audubon Soc. in evening at the Club house. Had a very appreciative audience of about 100 members & friends & children and the children were especially interested — the mice in cages which ran on their wheels while I talked.

April 11. Sunday.
Went with Mr. Christy to see the fox squirrels which are common at times in some of the yards of Sewickley. Also saw Red squirrels and chipmunks out in the woods and parks. Heard a Louisiana waterthrush singing — the park.

April 12 Went up to Pittsburg and out to Norman McClintock's at Shady Side and helped him fix up photographing apparatus for taking moving pictures of the horses. Worked until 11 PM and got one very good reel of pictures of Wheelers, Pacompadors & Evolutions.

April 13. Packed up and got ready for next trip to the races by Potter Co.

April 14. Took early train to Williamsport where we met Mr. Slaughterbeck and drove to Coudersport, 100 miles north. Interesting country and good roads most of way but got stuck in mud a couple of times and got in late. Had to stay all night at Coudersport where we found Van Cleve and Bessey who will go over to Conrad with us in morning.

A warm day but began to snow in evening.

Slaughterbeck told me of getting three bobcats last winter that weighed 30, 32 & 35 lbs.

Also of ~~5~~ very young black bears found in a den under old log and carried the last week in February.

April 15 – A little snow on ground in morning, clear and cold, down near zero & ground frozen hard. Air full of frost and a very wintry feeling. 15° above zero at 9 AM when we started for Hull. Van Clove, the local trapper and Burger the local game warden came with us, for the 20 mile drive over the high ridge and down to Hull, as Conrad, where the beavers are. Found the roads frozen but rough and later when it began to thaw they were slippery on the mud. On the cold slopes there was still old snow and in the roads old ice, but with chains we came along very nicely. Reached Hull just before noon!

In afternoon set two beaver traps and 9 live traps for small game and 10 more traps.

~~May 1, 1920~~

The beavers are more numerous here than last year, although ~~about~~ 16 have been caught and moved to other streams. Three were killed on by automobile on road, and two caught in mink & muskrat traps. There are now 16 main dams, not counting the small & secondary, and 22 occupied houses. Small colonies or pairs have crossed over the heads of streams, in spring high waters and established colonies on the heads of Kettle Creek, Pine Creek and the Allegheny River, all on different drainage systems.

Aside from all these losses in the Cinnamahoning drainage it seems evident from the houses, dams, and other signs that there at least 75 beavers here now. This would fully double the number here last year including the increase of those moved last summer.

The Wardens & Mr. Van Cleve and Slauttsbeck of the hotel men who live here & know the beaver personally all agree that this is a conservative estimate of the numbers of beavers here now.

One old large female has raised her family of young for two years past at the Splashdam, just above Hull and several people have seen the 5 young last summer and the summer before. The five yearlings were caught last summer in live traps and moved to another creek. Last summer Mr. Vancleve says he saw the 5 yearlings when he heard the young crying in the house, and later saw the 5 young out in evenings.

The beavers have wintered along the creek above the hotel where there are no aspens and have fed on blueberry, birch, river birch, maple, willow, alder and small stuff.

They have cut a few apple trees among wild cherry, and several small elms that have been cut out. Still there are lots of aspens up on the slopes that could be hauled down for food for the beavers.

The season is much later than last year at this date. There are no flowers, not even maple and elm, and little show of green grass on the meadows. There is no snow in the valley but solid ice under the leaves — the woods in shady places.

April 19. — Caught nothing in the beaver traps so moved them, one to the splash dam above the lots and the other two miles up Stovelike Run where there is a large colony of beavers and they have done an enormous amount

of building and cutting. They have 6 or 7 dams with good deep pools and a dozen secondary dams. There are several old deserted houses and two or three good used houses and a great many hand furrows. They have practically cleared several acres of open forest land and are working up the stream and abandoning the lowest cuttings below.

There are no aspens but they are living on yellow birch, beech, hornbeam, maple, soft & sugar, cherry, ironwood, and even hemlock. Several small hemlocks had been peeled but not cut down, and several large sugar maples had been peeled and not cut.

Cords of good solid wood with the bark eaten off are built into the dams.

Ernest E. Hunsinger. Conrad, Pa.

Ernest says they killed 2 female black bears near here last Dec. 15, each containing 2 small embryos the size of mice. Several bears have been found with 4 cubs.

Bear

He says these bears that he has known about had hibernated in shallow places scooped out in the ground and lined with leaves. but others have been found under logs or stumps or brush.

Porcupine

Picked up a porcupine skull and Ernest says he has shot 25 this winter in the game refuge.

Raccoons

Ernest says he kept 2 coons over winter. they were big and fat and stayed in their boxes without eating from Oct. 1 to about the middle of Feb.

After setting the traps we waited until 5 P.M. when one old big beaver came out and went down stream through two ponds. The one caught it in a small pond and John Berger caught it by the tail but fell down and it got away.

On the way home we drove across the road and ran it into the creek where Van Cloe caught it by the tail and we brought it home in a box sled. It was very dark but not very large, about 30 lbs.

[illegible] Game Protector D.
Pennsylvania
Hunting season of 1925

Elk	4	
Deer	7287	— 2 point & better
Bear	470	— cubs protected
Turkeys	3241	
Grouse		
Rabbits		
Squirrels		

April 17

Found a big old beaver in traps at upper end of pond on Rockfish Creek, about 2 miles north of Conrad, close to where the first beaver were put in here in 1920.
The stock was brought from Algonquin Park, Canada, and is of good dark brown fur.
The old beaver had evidently been — the traps all night sitting to her ears in icewater but seemed warm and comfortable after she had been out in the sunshine and cold wind for 15 minutes being photographed she was shivering with the cold.
Placed in gunnysack and carried about 2 miles on back of John Berryer, she was taken to open meadow and photographed, both still

Pennsylvania

and moving pictures. Then put in small pen she was photographed some more while swimming and eating and carrying branches in her bands.
Then placed in box of straw with food and water for the night.
Much cutting of hardwood timber at these dams and ponds because there is no other timber.

April 18 - Started home early in morning on frozen gravel but found a car frozen into the mud and blocking the road a few miles out. Got into Lodeltown about 1 AM and McClintock's left us for Pittsburg.
Took the old beaver along in grocery ~~sack~~ and kept her on the back seat cushion beside me all

the way, but it warned up and she was very hot and uncomfortable and restless. At Rockhaven she took one bite out of an apple and dropped dead in the kitchen. Found her very fat and full of 4 large foetuses ready for birth in a week or ten days. Made specimens of old beaver, and two of the foetuses, gave the other two to Slautterback for the Conservation Commission and two to the warden at Mifflinburg.

The embryos had shaken down out of place and four were under the intestines against the wall of the abdomen with navel cords twisted many times around. Two were still in the proper place above the intestines! Death may have been from heart or from strangulation of circulation in embryos.

Wed 17 visited ranger station 15 miles west of Mifflinburg and picked out place for travel house and pen on small creek, then went up to fire station on top of high sandstone plateau in Union Co., overlooking many valleys and mountain ridges.

No flowers and little trees grew.

Caught a small woodchuck & brought it home in a gunnysack.

Drove back to Mifflinburg and Harrisburg and reached Washington at 8:50 PM.

Milton to Harrisburg 2.38

April 25. Left Washington at 12:50 PM for Harrisburg and arrived at 4:20 PM. Met Slauterbeck at the station who drove to Mifflinburg that night. Had supper with the stranger, Mabel Reader and went to the Jump Inn for the night.

April 26. Drove 15 miles west to a little brook near Lewisburg where we built a beaver fence around a pond and built a 4 foot square house of boards in it. The house has a door with pad lock and a beaver hole in the floor at the water level, with trap door, so we can shut the beaver in and enter the house at any time. It took three of us half a day to do the whole job.

Returned to Washington at 9 P.M.

April 27 Went to New York to attend Mammal Society annual meeting and to give paper on Hibernators in some of our Native Mammals

~~April~~
May 1. Returned to Washington 9 P.M.

1924

May 12 Left Washington 4:50 PM for Harrisburg, arriving 8 PM. Went to Stand Hotel near depot & called up Seth Gordon of the Conservation Dept. had arranged for trip to beaver house tomorrow morning.

May 13 With Sutton, Coulter and ____ driver, went to Mifflinburg by auto and out to beaver house near Lewisburg. Photographed old beaver and her 6 babies as much as we wanted to.

The young were born Saturday, May 8 with eyes open and lower incisors out and upper almost out. They were bright and active and able to run around the first day. On May 11 force over

Weighed, one 14, two 16 and one 17 ounces when 4 days old. They are not much larger today when 6 days old and photographed with their mother. They would run about on the ground and cry when hungry and follow their mother for food but as she has only 4 nipples they have to take turns and always two have to wait. They generally nurse from underneath as the mother sits up or lies with room under her breast and throat for them. She is perfectly gentle and the young are as gentle and lovely as they can be.

After the young were put back in the house one remark of its mot box and appeared around the flume and went into the water hole and swam twice across it & then went back.

1924

May 30, Left Washington for Harrisburg 10:50 AM & arrived 2:15 PM. Met Mr. Clintock and Hawthorne & drove out to Mifflinburg & staied all night.

May 31 - Rained all night but cleared off about 10 AM and we could photograph baby bears and could hear all we wanted to. Got movies of young and old bears in pond and out and of bear eating from a bottle.

Went to Woodward Cave, some 10 or 15 miles west of Lewisburg but found no bats. They have left recently.

Cave is cold, 44° F. at present and the same all the year they say. Still warm bats winter there.

Returned to Harrisburg at
10 PM but trains all gone
so staid over to morning
June 1, and got home 10 AM.

Bear with 4 very young cubs
found under brush heap last week
in Feb. 1926. Elk Co. Pa.
Deep snow. Weather short,
cubs too young to be driven on
little but kept for a week or two

Hybridization
Contribution
Distribution + variation
Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, Fishes
Insects + Crustacea, cacheo, 14 pickets,
Slides

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Send Mrs Reader, Mifflintown, Pa,

Beavers
Bots
Poisons
Crows
Owls